



WHAT'S NEW?

Check out the City's blog:
takomaparkmd.gov/news/city-blog

Community Conversations
page 12

More Snow Angels Needed
page 10

**Personal Panoramas
Exhibit Opening**
Jan. 7
6:30-8 p.m.
Details, page 5

City offices closed
Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Monday, Jan. 18

Trash/recycling collection
No yard waste collection
Monday, Jan. 18

Mayor & Council
7500 Maple Ave.
Takoma Park, MD 20912



Newly elected Takoma Park Mayor Kate Stewart taking the oath of office.
Photo by Greg Land, Greg Land Photography.

New Year, new mayor, new conversations

By Apryl Motley

Newly elected Takoma Park Mayor Kate Stewart can't wait to hear what the community has to say about a variety of issues that will impact residents. While email and listservs have their place in City-wide communications, Stewart finds them not as helpful for "having meaningful conversations and dialogue about difficult issues."

There is no shortage of those as she begins her term. Topping her list of priorities are community policing, development of Takoma Park Junction, and affordable housing. In addition addressing residents' concerns about Washington Adventist Hospital's move and developing the FY17 budget are top priorities. So where to begin?

For Stewart the answer lies in engaging more members of the community to discuss how these issues affect them and the overall culture of Takoma Park. "The way to achieve greater community engagement is for our City staff, City council and residents to all be working together," she said.

"In particular, we need to shift the framework for how we think about community engagement," she continued. "The model for how we generally think about it now is that residents need to come to City staff or the City Council. I would like to see more of us getting out into the community more often."

To that end, plans are already under way to facilitate the types of interactions and conversations Stewart believes will be most valuable to all members of the com-

munity. One of them will be Friday morning coffees around the City in which Stewart, the City manager, the City Council person for that area, and other City staff will participate.

"We would pick a central location near metro and bus routes, start at 7:30 a.m. and be available for two hours for people to drop by on their way to work and talk about issues that are impacting that part of the community," Stewart explained. Location and other details are being worked on for the first Friday coffee of the year, which will be announced soon.

Along similar lines, Stewart envisions holding quarterly community conversations during the year where "we can bring together members of the community, outside experts, City staff, and the City Council to have conversations about issues we need to address as a whole community." The first community conversation is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 6, and the topic will be affordable housing (See page 12).

For Stewart the coffees and conversations are small, but integral, parts of a larger effort to increase civic engagement. She said having polling places throughout the community for early voting during the last election was a good start: "The engagement and enthusiasm there was wonderful."

Stewart hopes to build on the community interest generated from just having an election. "People are paying attention to what's going on in terms of the City Coun-

Maryland Health Care Commission Approves Hospital's Move

Last month the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) took final action and ruled in favor of the Certificate of Need application to move Washington Adventist Hospital's acute care hospital to an area north of White Oak. This was the outcome of a hearing the Mayor and several members of the City Council and staff attended in Baltimore on Dec. 17.

"We receive the news of Washington Adventist Hospital's move with disappointment, but readiness to prepare for the future," said Mayor Kate Stewart of the decision. "For many years, City staff, City council and residents have worked to ensure that throughout the process the needs of Takoma Park residents have been front and center."

To that end, a critical outcome of the hearing was that the commission upheld the most important condition for the move as outlined in Reviewing Commissioner Frances B. Phillip's recommendation. The condition called for the immediate establishment of a 24/7 urgent care center when the emergency room in Takoma Park closes. The establishment of the center will ensure that there will be no gap in providing the primary care services the community needs. "Clearly the commissioner recognized the need for these services based on the information the City has presented," said City Manager Suzanne Ludlow.

The City and Holy Cross Hospital had requested the consideration of a free standing emergency department, but the commission declined to make this a condition of its approval. However, hospital leadership has stated its commitment to evaluating the feasibility of such a department. "Washington Adventist Hospital will continue to be an integral part of the Takoma Park community as it has for 108 years," said the hospital's president, Erik Wangsness. "When the acute hospital services relocate to White Oak in 2019, we will still provide a robust array of services on our Takoma Park

HOSPITAL MOVE □ Page 3

NEW MAYOR □ Page 11

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Link
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Mind Your
Manners
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Cannabis
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City Council & Committee Calendar

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Wednesday, Jan. 13, 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 20, 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 27, 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 3, 7:30 p.m.
Meetings take place in the TPCC Auditorium, unless noted otherwise. Detailed agendas are always available for review online: takomaparkmd.gov/government/city-council/agendas.

CITY COUNCIL RETREAT – PRIORITY SETTING (OPEN TO THE PUBLIC)

Tuesday, Jan. 19, 6:30 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

CITY COUNCIL RETREAT – BUDGET PRIORITIES (OPEN TO THE PUBLIC)

Tuesday, Jan. 26, 6:30 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Check calendar for date

COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Monday, Jan. 11, 7:15 p.m.
TPCC Lilac Room

COMMEMORATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, Jan. 19, 7:00 p.m.
TPCC Lilac Room

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

Thursday, Jan. 28, 7:00 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

FACADE ADVISORY BOARD

Tuesday, Jan. 12, 6:30 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, Jan. 21, 7 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

SAFE ROADWAYS COMMITTEE

Monday, Jan. 11, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

TREE COMMISSION

Tuesday, Jan. 12, 6:30 p.m.
TPCC Rose Room

*All meetings are open to the public unless noted otherwise. Schedule changes can occur after the *Takoma Park Newsletter* deadline. For the most up to date information, visit www.takomaparkmd.gov and click on “Events and Meetings.” Most meetings are held in the Takoma Park Community Center – Sam Abbott Citizens’ Center, 7500 Maple Avenue (TPCC). Individuals interested in receiving a weekly Council agenda and calendar update by e-mail can sign up at: takomaparkmd.gov/government/city-council/sign-up-council-agendas.

NOTICE ON ADA COMPLIANCE

The City of Takoma Park is committed to ensuring that individuals with disabilities are able to fully participate in public meetings. Anyone planning to attend a City of Takoma Park public meeting or public hearing, and who wishes to receive auxiliary aids, services or accommodations is invited to contact Emily Cohen, at 301-891-7266 or emilyc@takomaparkmd.gov at least 48 hours in advance.

City Council Action

COMMEMORATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

Learn about the new programs and comment. The Takoma Park Commemoration Commission will hold a public hearing on Jan. 12 at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium regarding the Commission’s proposed five personal recognition programs. The Commission proposes to begin accepting applications for these new programs in February 2016. The proposed personal recognition programs include 1) an existing bench and new commemorative plaque program, 2) an existing tree and new commemorative plaque program, 3) a new tree and commemorative plaque program, 4) a new bench and commemorative plaque program, and 5) an honor gift tree program. The eligibility and cost requirements for each program are posted for review at www.takomaparkmd.gov.

The Commemoration Commission was established in November 2014 by the Takoma Park City Council. The legislation established three recognition levels to be administered by the Commission: 1) a City-wide recognition program, 2) a neighborhood/local recognition program, and 3) a personal recognition program. The Jan. 12 hearing will present the personal recognition programs proposed by the Commission. Residents who wish to learn more about the new programs and comment on the programs can sign up to testify at the hearing.

NOISE CONTROL BOARD TO BE REESTABLISHED – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The City Council is seeking applicants to serve on the Noise Control Board. The Board assists and advises the City on noise control issues, including administration and enforcement of the Noise Control Ordinance. The Board adjudicates noise disturbance complaints. Board members serve staggered three-year terms. Vacancies: five to seven. Apply by Jan. 29. Contact Jessie Carpenter, jessiec@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7267, for more information.

ORDINANCE 2015-57

Adopted Dec. 7, 2015 (first reading Nov. 30)
Playground Equipment for Colby Park Tot Lot
Authorizes the purchase of playground equipment from Kompan at the cost of \$50,376.

ORDINANCE 2015-58

Adopted Dec. 7, 2015 (first reading Nov. 30)
Colby Park Tot Lot Renovation
Authorizes a contract with Sandoval Landscaping for playground renovation.

RESOLUTION 2015-66

Adopted Nov. 30, 2015
Syrian Refugees
Affirms the City’s duty and willingness to welcome Syrian refugees and resolves to work with other levels of government, non-governmental agencies, and residents of the City to identify ways in which the community can provide support for refugee families relocating to the Takoma Park area and integrating into the community.

CITY COUNCIL ACTION □ Page 4

VACANCIES ON CITY BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

Interested in serving? A great first step is to review information at: www.takomaparkmd.gov/government/boards-commissions-and-committees. Then, attend a meeting to see if it is a good fit for you. If you have questions, contact the committee or talk to your City Councilmember or the City Clerk. Appointments are made by the City Council. Positions are open until filled unless an application date is provided. Apply by completing the online application and submit it along with a resume or statement of qualifications.

The following groups have vacancies as of Dec. 16:

The **Arts and Humanities Commission** advises the City Council on ways in which the City might best serve the public with regard to matters involving the arts; encourages and aids the appreciation and awareness of, and participation in, the arts among all Takoma Park residents; encourages cooperation and coordination among individuals, organizations and institutions concerned with the arts in Takoma Park; and facilitates employment opportunities for artists and the development of self-sustaining arts programs. Vacancies: up to five.

The **Board of Elections** plans and conducts regular and special City elections in coordination with the City Clerk; encourages voter registration in the City; conducts voter education programs and prepares and distributes voter outreach materials; recommends to the Council amendments to the City’s elections law and regulations when it deems such amendments are necessary and will provide for the improved conduct of elections; and periodically reviews City elections procedures. Apply by Jan. 15. Vacancies: one.

The **Commemoration Commission** documents, maintains, and preserves past, present, and future memorials, commemoratives, and recognitions in the City; recommends to the City Council procedures and programs to honor and commemorate individuals, organizations and businesses that have made significant contributions to the social, cultural, historical, political, economic, or civic life

of the City as a whole or to a neighborhood/local area as well as programs for individuals to honor others; implement such programs within its scope and budget; and decide on recognitions after opportunity for public review and comment. Vacancies: three.

The **Committee on the Environment** advises the City Council on all environmental issues, including, stormwater management, greenhouse gas reduction, air quality, tree protection, open space conservation, biodiversity, watershed functioning and restoration, energy use, transportation, energy conservation, and recycling; serves in partnership with the City Council and Takoma Park City staff to work together to achieve sustainability and other environmental certifications that may help the City meet and be recognized for its environmental goals. Vacancies: two.

The **Emergency Preparedness Committee** assists in reviewing the City’s Emergency Operations Plan and other supporting emergency documents and recommending changes; explores the formation of volunteer teams that can assist City in carrying out emergency activities when called upon; coordinates with the City, County, and other agencies to educate residents on their individual responsibilities in preparing for emergencies; provides information on what residents can expect from the City and County during an emergency; collects and provides research and data and comments on emergency-related events for the Council; identifies and promotes volunteer opportunities in emergencies; and advises the City on strategies to improve

the effectiveness and efficiency of City preparedness activities. Vacancies: one.

The **Ethics Commission** provides written advisory opinions; investigates, hears, and decides in ethics inquiries and complaints; conducts a public education program; recommends legislative changes and improvements to the Ethics Ordinance; and promulgates regulations to accompany the Ethics Ordinance. Vacancies: two.

The **Grants Review Committee** evaluates applications for funding from a variety of programs including the City’s Cultural and S.T.E.M. grants, Program and Operational Support grants, and Capital Project grants, and the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Vacancies: one.

The **Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee** oversees implementation and adherence to the Takoma Park Nuclear Free Zone Act and provides public information and issues related to the Ordinance. Vacancies: one.

The **Recreation Committee** advises the City Council on how best to serve the diverse recreation needs of Takoma Park residents, including but not limited to reviewing and recommending policies and programs that concern recreational opportunities within the City, with a special emphasis on youth and seniors and broad and diverse participation. Vacancies: five

The **Safe Roadways Committee** advises the City Council with respect to developing and implementing policies to increase transportation safety and accessibility in Takoma Park, especially for pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit riders. Vacancies: three.

By Apryl Motley

Editor's Note: CHEER (Community Health and Empowerment through Education and Research) was one of several groups awarded funds for FY16 from the City's Community Grant Program. The organization received funding to support three of its primary focus areas and initiatives: CHEER Youth Development Collaborative (\$11,250), CHEER 636 Houston Court Capacity Building Project (\$4,000), and CHEER Takoma Park Civic Engagement Project (\$15,000).

I caught up with Executive Director Bruce Baker and Vineda Myers, director of housing programs, for a phone conversation in early October just a few days after CHEER Community Association held a Renters' Protection meeting with several tenant association and rental community leaders to address ongoing concerns about rent increases. Drastic rent increases and displacement of some residents of Hampshire Towers in Ward 6 of Takoma Park prompted the meeting.

The majority of the meeting, according to Myers, "was spent trying to understand how it happened and ways to ensure that something like this won't happen again." She went on to say that there wasn't "a simple answer" to explain what occurred and that it was too early to determine what future solutions might be.

CHEER's primary role is to assist tenants in advocating for themselves. Myers said, "The ultimate goal is to make sure this doesn't happen to any other residents of Takoma Park." As Myers and Patterson outlined during our discussion, affordable housing is one of several key issues CHEER plans to address this year. Here's a portion of what we discussed.

Quick Facts

CHEER...

- Grew out of two local citizen groups: The Long Branch Citizens Advisory Committee and the Takoma Park Citizens Advisory Committee for the Community Development Block Grant
- Began in March 2008 as the Silver Spring/Takoma Park Community Indicators Project
- Received startup funding from the City of Takoma Park in the fall of 2008
- Got its current name at the end of 2009
- Received its 501c3 status from the IRS in May 2011

Some CHEER for the New Year



CHEER staff

TP News: What are the primary goals of CHEER's ongoing civic engagement program?

Baker: We've conducted focus groups with tenants and other residents to learn about their barriers to civic engagement. We want to identify actions we can take to bridge that gap and increase their level of engagement. We want them to be engaged beyond voting on Election Day by volunteering with local nonprofits or participating in PTAs, for example. These activities become part of their lives, so they feel more connected to their community.

TP News: What do you want residents of Takoma Park to know most about CHEER?

Baker: CHEER is a data-driven, results-based, inclusive model of civic engagement. We started from a group of citizens who were charged with determining how to allocate funds to programs in Takoma Park. We didn't have information about those organizations or know people who were familiar with them. We needed to create a more inclusive process, so more people could be involved. As an organization, we are exploring a way of engaging people and building relationships so that more people get involved and participate

in CHEER and in the community in general.

TP News: What was your most significant accomplishment in 2015?

Baker: It would be the establishment of the Takoma Park Youth Collaborative and our overall efforts aimed at helping youth. The program got off the ground last year. In 2014 we had a serious discussion about the needs of youth in the community and what was missing became a list of goals. One of which was to get youth employment ready. We found that many of them did not have opportunities to receive any type of job readiness training.

Last year we worked with other organizations, such as MANUP, Gandhi Brigade and Identity, to create a work readiness campaign for young people ages 16 to 19, the Who Wants to Work Challenge. From March 4 to April 8, thirty local youth participated in at least one of six sessions. Seven completed the program and earned referrals for employment.

TP News: What are you most looking forward to in the year ahead?

Baker: Continuing to focus on civic en-

gagement for those who are absent from the process and continuing tenant engagement in Takoma Park and Long Branch

Baker: Helping to implement new programs for youth entrepreneurship and helping youth identify career paths.

Baker and Myers believe affordable housing and home ownership issues will be front in center in 2016 as well as providing more opportunities for youth. "There are many challenges for not just the youth but for their parents, who may not be aware of all the opportunities available to them," Baker said. "Our goal is to make those opportunities effective in the lives of every Takoma Park resident."

Baker describes CHEER as "the interface between the community and the many organizations that do things in and around Takoma Park." As such another one of the organization's goals, he said, "is for all institutions to be responsive or more responsive to the needs of the people in the community than they may have been in the past." To learn more, visit communitycheer.org.

This is the first in a series of profiles about organizations that received funds through the City's Community Grants Program.



THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER

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Assistant: Sean Gossard
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Letters to the editor, reports by community groups, calendar items and other submissions will be considered for publication; send to tpnewseditor@takomaparkmd.gov

takomaparkmd.gov or Newsletter, City of Takoma Park, 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, Md. 20912.

Name, address and telephone number must accompany all submitted material. Editor reserves the right to edit for length, clarity, style, spelling and grammar.

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The Newsletter does not accept commercial, classified or political advertisements.

The Newsletter is printed on recycled-content paper.

HOSPITAL MOVE

■ From page 1

campus." Those services will include the following:

- A 24-hour urgent care center
- Behavioral health services
- Physical rehabilitation services
- A federally qualified healthcare center open in conjunction with Community Clinic Inc.
- A women's health center

According to Wangsness, the hospital "will work closely with the City in identifying possible other services and facilities that will create a vibrant community health campus in this location."

The City welcomes the opportunity to continue dialogue with the hospital. "Now with the decision made, we have much work ahead," Mayor Kate Stewart said. "We look forward to working with the hospital to ensure the Takoma Park campus has a robust array of health care services in an attractive setting."



BUILDING COMMUNITY

New and improved: City launches new website

The City recently launched its new website. One of the key strategies behind the redesign was to give the site a new foundation, which makes updates easier for staff and offers increased usability for residents.

First, the website design is completely responsive. The layout will adjust to display well on mobile devices like smartphones and tablets. Also, the search function on the site is now powered by Google Custom Search. While search improvement is very much an iterative process, according to City Media Specialist Craig Terrill, site users “should expect to see steady improvements with search as the new site matures.”

In addition to these noticeable enhancements, there are numerous “under-the-

hood” features that, while largely invisible to users, will enhance the site’s accessibility and help move it towards ADA compliance. “One of the main reasons for the redesign was the underlying technology of the old website wasn’t really a great fit for us,” Terrill said. “It was too complex, too hard to maintain and too difficult to style into an attractive and modern site.”

After choosing a firm to redesign the site through an RFP process, Terrill and other City staff built the new site from the ground up, which will make it easier to add new features in the future. According to Terrill, “the old site just wasn’t that agile; we’re in a much better place now.”

www.takomaparkmd.gov

Notice of Proposed Administrative Regulations

Notice of Proposed Administrative Regulations for Maximum Fees Associated with Residential Rental Facilities, in accordance with Chapter 6.16.090 of the Takoma Park Code-Fees-General provision, permitted fees, optional fees, prohibited fees.

An Administrative Regulation is being proposed to provide specifics to Chapter 6.16.090-Fees. The regulation establishes general provisions, and maximum fees for optional services and amenities in residential rental facilities.

Pursuant to the requirements of the “Administrative Regulations Ordinance” (Authority: Chapter 2.12 “Administrative Regulations,” of the Takoma Park Code),

notice of the City’s intention to adopt an administrative regulation must be publicly noted, allowing residents the opportunity to comment on the proposal. The proposed regulation is available for review online at www.takomaparkmd.gov/clerk. To obtain further information about the proposed regulation, contact Sara Anne Daines, Housing and Community Development Department, 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, Md. 20912, 301-891-7224, sarad@takomaparkmd.gov. Written comments on the proposed regulation may be sent to the City Clerk, 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, Md. 20912 or e-mailed to clerk@takomaparkmd.gov. The deadline for receipt of public comments is Jan. 31.

CITY COUNCIL ACTION

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RESOLUTION 2015-67

Adopted Dec. 7, 2015

Council Procedures

Adopts revised City Council rules of procedure

RESOLUTION 2015-68

Adopted Dec. 14, 2015

Council Winter Recess

Sets the City Council’s winter recess to begin Dec. 15 and extend through Jan. 12, 2016

RESOLUTION 2015-69

Adopted Dec. 14, 2015

Committee on the Environment Appointment

Appoints Jamey Gerlaugh to the Committee on the Environment

RESOLUTION 2015-70

Adopted Dec. 14, 2015

Grants Review Committee Appointments

Appoints Nadine Bloch and Jay Keller to the

Grants Review Committee

RESOLUTION 2015-71

Adopted Dec. 14, 2015

Nuclear-Free Zone Committee Appointments

Appoints Katherine Tucker and Kevin Martin to the Takoma Park Nuclear-Free Zone Committee

RESOLUTION 2015-72

Adopted Dec. 14, 2015

Commemoration Commission Appointment

Appoints Bruce R. Williams to the Commemoration Commission

RESOLUTION 2015-73

Adopted Dec. 14, 2015

Recreation Committee Appointment

Appoints Rachna Rikhye to the Recreation Committee

RESOLUTION 2015-74

Adopted Dec. 14, 2015

Tree Commission Appointment

Appoints Tina Murray to the Tree Commission

Lifelong Link

This is a new feature that connects City of Takoma residents with resources. It is brought to you by the Lifelong Takoma Program.

Q: What is a resource for dental care for seniors?

A: You can contact the Howard University Dental Clinic. This resource is useful for residents of all ages, including those 55+. The address is Howard University College of Dentistry, 600 W St., NW, 3rd Floor, Washington, DC 20001. They have the CIAP Program, which focuses specifically on providing dental treatments for seniors. The program operates on a walk-in basis on the 3rd floor. The clinic is open Tuesdays through Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and on Wednesdays from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, contact Ms. Rodgers at 240-499-6010 and leave a detailed message. You may also just

want to go to the clinic to gain more information and be treated.

You can also contact the University of Maryland School of Dentistry. They also treat people of all ages. The school is located at 650 W. Baltimore St., Baltimore, Md. 21201.

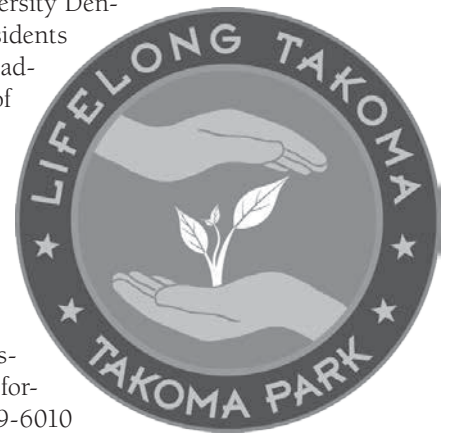
To schedule an appointment for screening, call 410-706-7063. Following screening, you will be referred to the appropriate clinic for treatment. They do provide advanced dentistry, which includes root canals and dentures. Prices are 20 to 50 percent cheaper than at a private practice.

Q: Which groups offer rides to seniors?

A: Village Rides is a volunteer ride program offered through the nonprofit, Village of Takoma Park. Rides need to be scheduled a week in advance, and you can get rides to doctor appointments, church, grocery shopping, events, etc. For more information or to schedule a ride, call 301-255-4212.

Q: Is it too late to sign up for the Snow Angels Snow Removal Program?

A: The Snow Angels Program will be opening up its availability in mid-January to include additional residents who hadn’t contacted the program by Dec. 1. If you have a physical disability that prevents you from removing snow from your residence and sidewalks, you may call (301-891-7232) or email (lifelong@takomaparkmd.gov) the Lifelong Takoma Program to register. Registration for the program requires that you provide your name, phone number, address and brief information that confirms your need. Calls and emails will be returned when the program re-opens in mid-January.



Too many cars

Do your neighbors have one or more cars in their driveways or in their yards that never seem to move? It’s not just an eyesore; it may also be against City code, and your neighbor may be a car hoarder.

The City requires that all vehicles and trailers stored on any premises must be tagged and operable. Vehicles are to display license plates with current expiration tags or temporary registration cards. Just covering the vehicle with a tarp or car cover does not make things okay; the

vehicle needs to be operable and tagged.

Vehicles may not be in a state of major disassembly or disrepair, so those repair jobs need to be done at a shop or elsewhere. Car parts are to be stored in a garage or shed. Vehicles must also be parked on surfaced areas like driveways or parking pads. Lastly, vehicles should never be used for storage of excess possessions. Let’s help keep our neighborhoods looking good.

Personal Panoramas Exhibit Opening

Thursday, Jan. 7, 6:30 – 8 p.m.

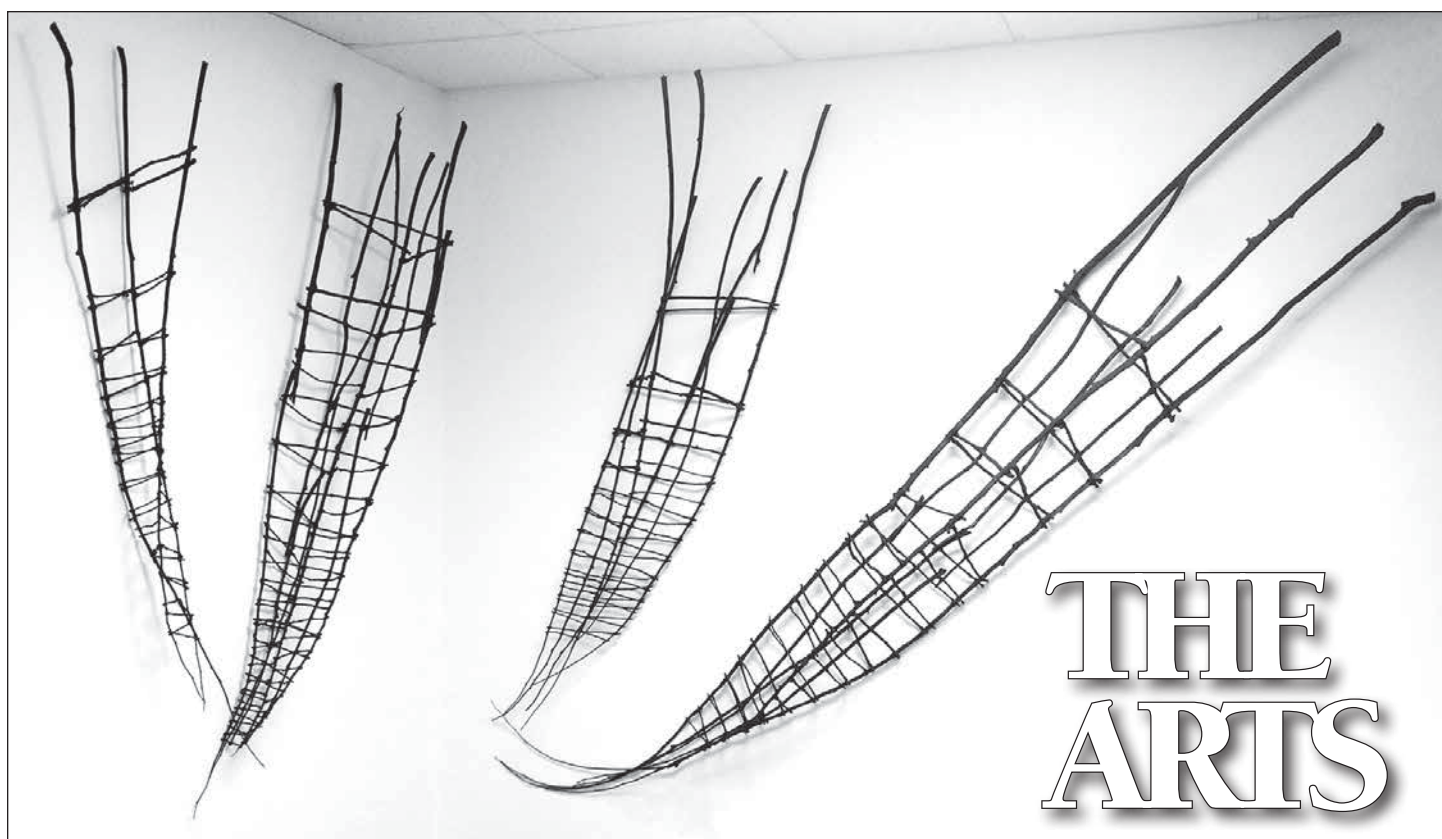
The Takoma Park Community Center Atrium Gallery

7500 Maple Avenue

The artists of *Personal Panoramas*, the forthcoming exhibit at the Takoma Park Community Center, zoom-out to hone in on the beauty in everyday environments.

Havana's colorful streets and a forest's layered canopy are muses of two featured artists, which include Allan Akman, Julia Bloom, Kristine DeNinno, Alex Keto, Jacqueline Lee and Marcie Wolf-Hubbard. The exhibit opens with a reception Jan. 7 from 6:30 – 8 p.m. in the center's Atrium Gallery, 7500 Maple Avenue.

Printmakers Akman and DeNinno share a studio at Pyramid Atlantic Arts Center, but their similarities end there. While Akman, a retired govern-



Julia Bloom, *Airshaft*

ment consultant, makes color-rich prints from photographs, DeNinno emphasizes texture in her abstract monotypes inspired by nature. Akman's work will show in the Atrium Gallery, and DeNinno's work will show in the Dempsey Gallery.

Natural elements also inform Julia Bloom's sculptures, which will show in the Suspended Space. Bloom makes sculptures from sticks, wire, and sometimes, a coat of paint. Although the materials are minimal, the result is strong and complex.



Allan Akman, *DC Blossoms*

"My sculptures' intersecting lines reflect the complexity of natural systems," Bloom said in her artist statement, "the fragility and evanescence of light, air and shadow."

Encaustic artist Wolf-Hubbard and mixed-media artist Lee also manipulate unexpected materials in their respective representations of the human form and landscapes. Wolf-Hubbard will show in the Corridor Space, and Lee will show in Gallery 3.

Photographer Alex Keto will show images from his Cuba Series in the

Atrium Gallery. His series ramps up reality with highly saturated colors and stitched-together panoramas.

"Obama announced that we could travel to Cuba, and I knew I wanted to go there and capture what it looked like before anything changed," Keto said.

Personal Panoramas shows the natural world, cityscapes and unexpected scenes. The exhibit runs until March 7.

January Events from We Are Takoma

Friends in Deed: American Quakers and Refugees from Nazi Europe, 1938-1941
Thursday, Jan. 7, 7:30 p.m.

Ron Coleman, a research librarian for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, interprets the American response to those who tried to flee Nazi persecution between Kristallnacht in 1938 and the American entry into World War II in 1941. Coleman shares recently re-discovered stories of refugees and families the Quakers aided during the "refugee crisis" years. \$10 donation suggested

Vintage Classroom Movies
Thursday, Jan. 14, 7:30 p.m.

A screening of short, educational films from the '40s, '50s, and '60s that range in tone from funny and ridiculous, to surprisingly frank and honest, these clips are a window into life in post-WWII America. Free.

Third Thursday Poetry
Thursday, Jan. 21, 7:30 p.m.

The popular "Third Thursday" poetry series features the work of a wide range of poets from across the region. Stop by on any third Thursday of the month and check it out. January includes readings by Doritt Carroll, Ellen Cole and Susan Okie. Free



Alex Keto, *Havana Vieja*

Connect creatively! Tell us about the art events you love.

The Takoma Park Arts & Humanities Commission sponsors dance events, film screenings, lectures, family events, and more through its "We Are Takoma" initiative. Tell us how you like We Are Takoma events and give us suggestions for future programs with a quick survey! Follow the links below to participate.

Survey for individuals: bit.ly/1MNtIsK

Survey for families: bit.ly/1Hxx8Tr

we are TAKOMA



RECREATION

TOTS

ART

Clay for Kids

Ages 4 – 8

In this class, children will receive instruction on how to utilize a variety of techniques (coil, pinch, slab work) to create one-of-a-kind sculptures and vessels out of clay. Caregiver participation required. There is a \$15 materials fee (per child) due to the instructor on the first day of class.

TP Community Center Art Studio
Wednesdays, Jan. 13 – Feb. 17, 4 – 5 p.m.
TP residents \$130
Non-residents \$150

EDUCATION/DEVELOPMENT

Kindermusik – Cuddle and Bounce

Ages newborn – 1 year

With age-appropriate activities for newborns, infants and crawlers, this parent-child music and movement class will help you strengthen those early parent-child bonds, understand your baby's development, and heavily focus on child development and communication with your baby. You and your baby will enjoy instrument play, dance, exploration time, and together time with others.

Heffner Park Community Center
Tuesdays, Jan. 5 – Feb. 23, 11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
TP residents \$126
Non-residents \$156

Kindermusik – Sing and Play

Ages 1 – 2

Get ready to sing, play, and move with your little one in this high-energy music class designed to be just right for very young children. This new Kindermusik curriculum focuses on your child's beginning movement, helping to build the muscles your young toddler needs to walk, run, and climb; and on vocal development, helping your child's speaking and singing voice.

Heffner Park Community Center
Wednesdays, Jan. 6 – Feb. 24, 10:30 – 11:15 a.m.
TP residents \$126
Non-residents \$156

Kindermusik – Wiggle and Grow

Ages 2 – 3

This music-filled class celebrates the unique

joys of your growing child. Each week your child will love singing, dancing, and playing instruments and you'll love helping him/her practice a wide variety of abilities such as gross and fine motor skills, turn-taking, social skills, and active listening. In class, we'll also share tips and ideas for using music throughout the week.

Heffner Park Community Center
Wednesdays, Jan. 6 – Feb. 24, 9:30 – 10:15 a.m.
Thursdays, Jan. 7 – Feb. 25, 10:30 – 11:15 a.m.
Saturdays, Jan. 9 – Feb. 27, 10 – 10:45 a.m.
TP residents \$126
Non-residents \$156

Kindermusik – Family Time

Ages newborn – 6

Family Time is Kindermusik's version of the one-room schoolhouse. Bringing children of all ages together provides a dynamic and integrated learning experience for everyone. Families with one child or multiple children are welcome to attend. Sibling discount offered. One \$30 home materials kit per family included in registration fee.

Heffner Park Community Center
Tuesdays, Jan. 5 – Feb. 23, 10:30 – 11:15 a.m.
Thursdays, Jan. 7 – Feb. 25, 11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
Saturdays, Jan. 9 – Feb. 27, 9 – 9:45 a.m.
TP residents \$126
Non-residents \$156

YOUTH

ART

MAKE/Shift Studio I - Art Inspirations

Ages 8 – 11

Elementary students create exciting 2- and 3-D projects in this afterschool class. Lessons include drawing, painting, collage, assemblage and mixed-media – every class a different subject and medium. Children learn to express themselves and engage in visual problem solving while producing beautiful works using color, shape, line, texture and pattern. Contemporary and historical artists provide inspiration for this art program geared for 3rd through 6th graders.

TP Community Center Art Studio
Thursdays, Jan. 7 – Feb. 11, 4 – 5:45 p.m.
TP residents \$150
Non-residents \$170

RECREATION *Special programs*

The Early Bird Captures the Worm! Summer Camp Expo

Saturday, Jan. 30 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Come to the Takoma Park Community Center at 7500 Maple Ave. and discover all of the camps that the Recreation Department will be offering this year for tots, youth and teens. Meet the instructors and learn what your child(ren) will be participating in. You will receive a 20 percent discount if you register in person during the expo. All other forms of registration will begin Monday, Feb. 1 at 8:30 a.m. Registrants throughout the Early Bird Special registration period (Feb. 1-29) will receive a 10 percent discount.

Just For Dads: Parenting Tools, Techniques and Tips

Ages 16 and older

What can us as fathers do to add depth to our relationships with our children? How can we help them tap into their own sense of motivation to learn and enhance their development? What can we do differently to avoid conflicts and power struggles? Join Takoma Park dad and Early Childhood Education Professional, Scott Mitchell to discuss tools, techniques and resources that answer these questions.

TP Community Center Azalea Room
Thursdays, 7 – 8:30 p.m.
Session 1: Jan. 21
Session 2: Feb. 18
Free



MAKE/Shift Studio II – Drawing & Watercolor

Ages 11 – 13

Have fun learning to draw with black, white and colored drawing materials, paint with watercolors, use pen and ink and explore mixed-media approaches to representational imagery. Subjects will include still life, portrait, landscape (weather permitting) and floral studies. Beginning students welcome. The focus of the class is appropriate for students interested in developing a portfolio for entry into the Visual Art Center at Albert Einstein High School.

TP Community Center Art Studio
Tuesdays, Jan. 12 – Feb. 16, 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.
TP residents \$145
Non-residents \$165

DROP IN

Kid's Night Out

Ages 6 – 12

Want a night to yourself while your kids have a blast with their friends? Bring your children to the Takoma Park Recreation Center Kid's Night Out. This will be a fun filled night for children. It will involve activities such as games, art & crafts, movies and theme nights.

TP Recreation Center gymnasium
First and third Friday, 7:15 – 8:30 p.m.
Free with membership card

EDUCATION/DEVELOPMENT

Babysitting Class

Ages 18 and older

This class is designed for those interested in learning more about babysitting. Topics covered include: CPR, fire safety, First Aid, infant and child care and personal safety. A certificate will be issued upon completion of all five classes and exam. Co-sponsored by the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department. All classes will be held at the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire House.

Takoma Park Volunteer Fire House
7201 Carroll Ave.
Mondays, Feb. 22 – Mar. 21, 7 – 9 p.m.
Free

EXTENDED CARE

After the Bell

Ages Kindergarten – 5th grade

Afterschool Program at the Takoma Park Recreation Center. Transportation is not provided to this program, but you can contact the MCPS Transportation department and have them change your child's bus route to the New Hampshire Towers behind the Recreation Center and staff will meet them at the bus stop and walk them over each day for after care. Enjoy indoor and outdoor activities after school. Homework and study time will be provided each day.

TP Recreation Center
Monday – Friday, 3:30 – 6:30 p.m.
(On-going/School Year)
\$125 per month for the year

MARTIAL ARTS

Kung Fu

Ages 4 – 16

This ancient form of self-defense provides physical and mental exercise which could help the students defend themselves by strengthening hand and eye coordination. The students will gain physical fitness, mental and spiritual strength. There is a onetime, non-refundable fee of \$50 paid to the instructor at the first class for uniform.

TP Community Center Dance Studio
Saturdays, Jan. 23 – Mar. 26
Beginners 10:15 – 11:15 a.m.
Advanced 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
TP residents \$129
Non-residents \$149

RECREATION

■ From page 6

Taekwondo

Ages 5 and older

Taekwondo, it is composed of three parts as shown in the English spelling, though it is one word in Korean. "Tae" means "foot," "leg," or "to step on"; "Kwon" means "fist," or "fight"; and "Do" means the "way" or "discipline." There is a onetime, non-refundable, fee paid to the instructor at the first class for uniform (\$40 children, \$50 adults).

TP Community Center Dance Studio
Mondays, Jan. 4 – April 4, 6 – 7 p.m.

TP residents \$145

Non-residents \$165

SPORTS/FITNESS/HEALTH

Step Team

Ages 6 – 12

Stepping is a form of dance in which you use your entire body as an instrument to produce rhythms and beats through footsteps, clapping and words or chanting. Members will learn self-expression, coordination, self-discipline and teamwork. No experience is necessary and we welcome all who are willing to learn.

TP Recreation Center Front Meeting Room
Ongoing, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Free with a Recreation Center Membership

TRIPS

Fun Day: College Park Aviation Museum

Ages 5 – 12

Learn what it was like in the early life of pilots, and one of the first locations for flight. Participants will meet at the Community Center. Must pack a lunch. Trips, activities and performers are subject to change. Space is limited, sign up early. Paperwork will need to be completed prior to the first day of program.

Takoma Park Community Center Azalea Room
Monday, Jan. 25, 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

TP residents \$40

Non-residents \$50

Registration Underway for Winter Classes

A full listing of our classes and programs are in the 2016 Winter City Guide or help us go green and visit us online www.takomaparkmd.gov/government/recreation.



TEENS

ART

Nail Flare

Ages 13 – 17

Have you ever wanted to be able to do your nails and have them look like they were professionally done? If so, this is the class for you. There are a number of different nail art techniques you can use to create unique designs on your natural nail. This class will teach you proper nail maintenance as well as design techniques such as: stamping, sponging, dotting, decals, and drawing. Registration is required.

TP Community Center Art Studio
Fridays, Dec. 1 – Feb. 5 (no class 1/8), 3:30 – 5 p.m.
Free

DANCE

Just Dance

Ages 12 – 17

The Just Dance Program will emphasize on Modern and Hip-Hop dance while building teamwork and enhancing creative skills. Students must wear comfortable modestly appropriate clothing and bring a bottle of water along with a small towel. Registration required. Instructor: Brandy Robertson.

TP Community Center Dance Studio
Thursdays, Jan. 7 – Mar. 31, 4 – 6 p.m.

TP resident \$10

Non-resident \$15.

DROP IN

Power Hour for Teens

Ages 13 – 17

Take advantage of our homework power hour focusing on academic support. We are the perfect balance of academics and fun. Students are given quiet time to complete homework or read. Staff is available to assist and can review the completed assignments. Upon completion of work, students are invited to lounge, play games, and/or participate in activities. Registration is not required.

TP Community Center Teen Lounge
Ongoing, Tuesdays, 4 – 5 p.m.

Free

Teen Night

Ages 12 – 17

Nothing to do on Friday night? Looking for something exciting to do? The Takoma Park Recreation Center provides high quality, affordable, safe and fun activities for teens. Come on out to a night of games, activities and more. Bring your friends for a cheap night out of the house.

TP Recreation Center gymnasium
Second and fourth Friday, 7:15 – 8:30 p.m.
Free with membership card

Mind your manners

Two years ago the Takoma Park Recreation Department partnered with Charmonique Vogue Inc. to teach Charm School Etiquette classes at the Takoma Park Community Center. This course is designed to provide young people with positive life skills. The course is geared towards teens ages 12-17, who are looking to enhance their personal image.

Professor Cheryl Higgins is the founder and Washington, D.C., training director. She is a native of California and grew up in the Hampton Roads area of Virginia. Having earned her MBA, she held management positions with top-tier fortune 100 firms in Colorado, Michigan and New Jersey. She is a former honorary university queen, debutante commissioner, and mother of two adult children. Prof. Higgins has a keen consulting acumen. An entertainment industry enthusiast, she wrote a freelance script for "The Cosby Show" and has appeared in major movie productions such as *Deep Impact*, *State of Play*, and *House of Cards*. Her fashion performances have led to long-standing partnerships with high-end retailers.

Ten years ago while volunteering in public schools, Prof. Higgins noticed a dire need for proper etiquette for young people as well as adults. She did research in her area and found that there were limited opportunities available and thus came the start of Charmonique Vogue Inc. Charmonique Vogue provides services to help clients (of all ages) define, enhance or maintain their professional and personal image. Charmonique Vogue has expanded beyond just etiquette courses; the company now offers modeling and acting classes.

Charm School at the Takoma Park Community Center is an eight-week etiquette course covering: grooming



L-R Stuart Chappelle, Erica Matthews-Williams and Quan'ell Kitchen celebrating the completion of Charm School.

and style, respect and manners, appreciation, dating with dignity, conversation skills, public speaking, workplace dynamics and etiquette for social events. At the end of the eight weeks, participants are invited to dinner at a high-end restaurant to put their lessons into play. The Takoma Park Recreation Center covers the cost of food and transportation as a way to reward them for completing the program.

"I've been so pleased with the differences I've noticed in [my daughter's] habits since she's participated in the course – more attention to tailoring her wardrobe to the occasion, self-monitoring and correcting table manners, more engaging in conversation during meals. You've put together a remarkable program," said Pam Williams (mother of a 12-year-old participant).

Charm School Etiquette classes are held each Fall at the Takoma Park Community Center on Wednesday afternoons from 4 – 5 p.m., while Modeling is held in the Spring on Wednesdays from 4 – 5 p.m. To find out more about teen programs and services, visit our website at takomaparkmd.gov/government/recreation/classes-and-programs.

RECREATION □ Page 11

RECREATION Announcements

Change in Online Reservation Procedures for Heffner Park Community Center and Park Pavilions

Beginning Jan. 1, the Takoma Park Recreation Department's online reservation system, ActiveNet, will accept reservation requests only for the Heffner Park Community Center and all pavilions. This new process will temporarily hold the space until the request is approved by Recreation Department staff. Patrons will have 72 hours after a request has been approved to make full payment. If full payment is not made, Heffner Community Center or the requested pavilion will be released for others to reserve. We look forward to continuing to provide you with excellent customer service for your next rental request. Feel free to contact Gregory Clark, Takoma Park Recreation Director, at 301-891-7290 for questions.

Local Businesses Wanted

Are you a business looking for summer help? The Recreation Department is looking for businesses to partner with for its Summer Youth Employment Program. For more information, email leiciam@takomaparkmd.gov. "Empowering Youth Through Employment"



It's Snowing – Is My Class Canceled?

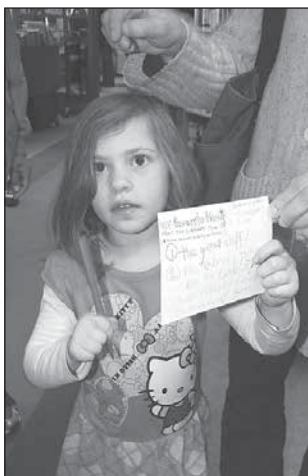
The City of Takoma Park has several ways to let you know if City facilities are closed and if Takoma Park Recreation programs are canceled: get notices via Takoma Park Alert (www.takomaparkmd.gov/alert); check the City's website; or call the Recreation Department's Inclement Weather Line (301-891-7101 x5606).

In general, if the Federal Government closes or has a delayed opening in the morning, the City does the same. Classes that begin before a delayed opening are usually canceled. Morning and Afternoon Addition and After the Bell programs follow the Montgomery County Public Schools declarations. If there is a 2-hour delay in the morning, Morning Addition starts at 9 a.m.

Celebrate Takoma Committee Volunteers Needed

The Recreation Department is beginning to plan the third annual Celebrate Takoma Festival for Saturday, May 14, and we need your help. The festival celebrates the cultural diversity of Takoma Park. We will be looking for food, merchandise vendors and local entertainers. If you would like to volunteer to be a part of the steering committee, email Debby Huffman at deborahh@takomaparkmd.gov. The committees meet monthly in the evenings. Come join the fun.





Library celebrates 80 years

Top left, Elizabeth Ferry serves birthday cake. Top right, a young fan shows her birthday card.

At left, Elizabeth Ferry, Karen MacPherson, and Ellen Robbins.

Photos by Bruce Guthrie

Earthquake in Nepal

By Larry Silverman

Larry Silverman will be a guest presenter at special program sponsored by the Friends of the Library on Thursday, Jan. 14 at 7:30 p.m. in the Library. All are invited to attend.

Plane tickets to Nepal were my son's 70th birthday gift to me and my wife Kathleen Fern. This was a trip I had been hankering to make.

I own S&A Beads in Takoma Park, which sells beads, jewelry and other artifacts from Nepal. I wanted to see Nepali artisans at work and perhaps buy items not easily available from here. I also teach online graduate courses on environmental policy to Nepalese and American students. I became acquainted with a number of Nepali students and teachers and learned a lot about their environmental issues. I wanted to meet these colleagues in person and learn more about topics we discussed in class.

Of course we also wanted to have fun. It was a birthday celebration after all. Our hopes were realized in spades. Nepal turned out to be an extraordinary artist colony. We had wonderful encounters with students and teachers. We learned a great deal about Nepal's environmental challenges. We cemented friendships and shared hundreds of happy memories. We had fun, saw incredible sites, met great people and went to super parties.

But the most memorable part of the entire trip happened two days before we were to fly home. On our last Saturday in Kathmandu, we planned to have lunch at the home of my teaching assistant, Deepika. Her husband Neelesh drove us there, but midway through the trip, we felt a large jolt. Neelesh thought he had had a flat tire and stopped. More jolts followed.

The always crowded street filled with pedestrians. Motor bikes were knocked to the ground. Terrifying tremors persisted, and Neelesh called Deepika on his cell phone. "I can't talk now," she said. "We are having an earthquake."

The quake was extraordinarily severe — magnitude 7.9 — and accompanied by hundreds of aftershocks, some of them very large. Eventually we arrived at Deepika's home. There was no question about going indoors. Kathleen and I had left luggage and passports at our hotel, but given the intensity of the quake and aftershocks, we had no choice but to accept Deepika's invitation to spend the night in her garden.

As special guests we were given a pup tent, which their children used to play at camping. Sleeping was not easy. Animals can sense earthquakes before people, and so before every aftershock that night, all the dogs, roosters and monkeys in Kathmandu let out great howls, which continued for five minutes after the shock ceased.

The next day, we walked to the nearby business district. Many ancient buildings that we had toured the week before were in ruins. We were some of the last to see structures which, until then, had stood more than a thousand years. Later we drove through areas of the city that were still passable. Thousands of families were living in the streets. Kathmandu does not have much open space, but every park, field, sidewalk and traffic island was teeming with people. That night we slept outside again until the rain began. My heart went out to the thousands on the streets, many without blankets or tarps. On Monday, we went to the airport and waited for

EARTHQUAKE □ Page 9

CALENDAR

Circle Time

Every Tuesday
Two times: 10 a.m. OR 11 a.m.

Spanish Circle Time

Every Thursday, 10:30 a.m.
Led by Senora Geiza

Proposed Library Renovation/Expansion

Public Meeting & Architect Presentation
Thursday, Jan. 7, 7:30 p.m.
Azalea Room, Community Center

LEGO Club

Sunday, Jan. 10, 1:30-3 p.m.
Building fun for ages 5-12

Comics Jam

Tuesday, Jan. 12, 4 p.m.
Come read comics with Dave Burbank.

Bedtime Stories and a Craft

Tuesday, Jan. 12, 7 p.m.
Join Ms. Kati for this fun monthly program.

Nepal Earthquake & Aftermath Program (see article)

Thursday, Jan. 14, 7:30 p.m.

Featuring Takoma Park resident Larry Silverman

Crafts for Kids

Sunday, Jan. 17, 2-3 p.m.
Kids are invited to make crafts; all materials provided.

Friends of the Library Board Meeting

Tuesday, Jan. 19, 7:45 p.m.

Friends Fortnightly Book Club (see article)

Wednesday, Jan. 20, 7:30 p.m.
Book: *The Story of My Teeth* by Valeria Luiselli
Hydrangea Room

Caldecott Club

Thursday, Jan. 21, 7 p.m.
We'll be reading the actual 2016 Caldecott Medal winner and honor books.
All ages welcome; lemonade and cookies served.

Picture Book Creator Ryan Higgins

Wednesday, Jan. 27, 7 p.m.
Meet the author/illustrator of *Mother Bruce*.

Looking ahead.....

- Bedtime Stories and a Craft, Tuesday, Feb. 2, 7 p.m.
- Crafts for Kids, Sunday, Feb. 7, 2-3 p.m.

LIBRARY BRIEFS

Mock Caldecott winners

It's become a passion among children's literature lovers to hold "Mock" Caldecott events at the end of the year to see how close they can get to choosing the actual winner of the Caldecott Medal. The medal, one of the most prestigious children's lit awards, is awarded annually by the American Library Association to the best-illustrated book for kids ages birth-14.

This year our Library held six Mock Caldecott events in December, as a way of providing valuable feedback to Karen MacPherson, children's and teen coordinator, who is a member of the 2016 Caldecott Committee. Karen and the other members of the "real" committee will meet in early this month, and the actual winner will be announced with great fanfare on the morning of Jan. 11.

During Mock Caldecott's, it's always interesting to see the somewhat different choices made by kids and adults. All of the students at Piney Branch Elementary School (two classes of third graders and seven classes of fourth graders) chose *I Yam a Donkey* written and illustrated by Cece Bell as their winner. Other favorite books of these students included *The Bear Ate Your Sandwich* written and illustrated by Julia Sarcone-Roach, *The Skunk* written by Mac Barnett and illustrated by Patrick McDonnell, and *Wolfie the Bunny* written by Ame Dykman and illustrated by Zachariah OHora.

The grown-up participants in our Mock Caldecott for Adults, meanwhile, chose *The Bear Ate Your Sandwich* as their winner. Honors went to *Flutter & Hum* written and illustrated by Julie Pasckis, *My Pen* written and illustrated by Christopher Myers, *Waiting* written and illustrated by Kevin Henkes and *Water Is Water* written by Miranda Paul and illustrated by Jason Chin.

In our Caldecott Club, which is composed of both kids and adults, the winning book was: *The Bear Ate Your Sandwich* written and illustrated by Julia

Sarcone-Roach.

Overall, the Mock Caldecott programs have been a fun way for kids and adults to learn more about children's book art while reading some wonderful, newly-published books. And one of our young Mock Caldecott participants even came up with a Caldecott-related joke: "Q: What do you call an award for books about animals? A: The Cow-dacott Award."

Now that mock season is over, everyone must wait to see what the "real" Caldecott Committee decides. Their work is done in secret; the discussions behind locked doors remain confidential forever. Their choice of a winner and any honor books will, of course, be big news in the children's literature world. If you're a children's book fan and up early on the morning of Jan. 11, you can watch a live webcast of the Youth Media Awards at ala.unikron.com/2016. The Caldecott Medal winner will be announced towards the end of the program, just before the final award, the Newbery Medal winner, is announced.

Author/Illustrator Ryan Higgins

Ryan Higgins, author/illustrator of *Mother Bruce*, will talk about his book and his artistic process on Wednesday, Jan. 27 at 7 p.m.

In *Mother Bruce*, a picture book for ages 3-6, Higgins tells the tale of a grumpy bear named Bruce, the reluctant parent of four goslings, who mistakenly believe he is their mother. Even after they've grown and could fly away, the goslings refuse to leave their ursine "Mother Goose."

Kirkus gave *Mother Bruce* a starred review, noting: "Higgins' softly fascinating textures, deft lines, savvy use of scale, and luminous landscapes (which evoke traditional romantic landscape painting, atmospheric in air and light) make for gorgeous art. Visually beautiful, clever, edgy, and very funny."

Politics & Prose Bookstore will be selling copies of *Mother Bruce* at the event, but our program is free, and no purchase is required to attend.

Medical cannabis dispensary could open

By Bob Guldin

Medical marijuana may come to Takoma Park this year, but right now that's far from certain. The Maryland state legislature passed a law in 2013 permitting a limited number of license-holders to grow, process and sell marijuana in the state for medical uses only. However, the state encountered problems and delays putting the law into effect. Now that the application period has closed for dispensaries, growers and processors, the Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission recently announced that work has begun to develop a timeline for their review of applications, which will determine the final timetable for implementing Maryland's medical cannabis program.

On Oct. 19, the Takoma Park City Council held a work session to discuss what the new law will mean for the City. This is worth looking into because two parties have said they are interested in opening cannabis dispensaries in Takoma Park, and there may well be more. The Maryland law states that cities and counties may not prohibit cannabis businesses from setting up, but they can regulate zoning for such businesses.

According to Mayor Kate Stewart, "we can have a cannabis dispensary somewhere in the City. It would benefit the residents of Takoma Park, but we need much clearer guidelines on where the dispensary should be." Stewart said she was disappointed that Montgomery County, which has primary zoning responsibility for the City, has decided to take "a wait-and-see approach" toward cannabis facilities. She suggested that a 1,000-foot buffer zone between a dispensary and any school or pre-school might be a good approach.

The Council has asked City staff to look into how other jurisdictions regulate cannabis businesses. The City could, for example, ask the County to make a zoning change or could require a public hearing. Jeff Kahn, in testimony before the Council, described the operation of the Takoma Wellness Center, a medical marijuana dispensary he owns. It has been operating for two-and-a-half years in D.C. at 6925 Blair Road, N.W., a short distance from the Takoma Metro. Kahn pointed out, though, that Maryland residents may not use the DC facility and DC residents will be prohibited from using a Maryland dispensary. Kahn is a rabbi (not leading a congregation



Medical marijuana on display at the Takoma Park Wellness Center. Photo by Bob Guldin

now); his wife, son and daughter-in-law work at the Wellness Center too.

Kahn told the Council that he has a good relationship with DC police, and there have been no law enforcement problems at the dispensary. Business started out very slow, according to Kahn, but has been growing. "Demand has far outstripped supply," he said, even though "there are no insurance benefits for marijuana, so it's expensive." Kahn is one of two parties who have publicly expressed interest in opening a dispensary in Takoma Park.

The other is a couple – Tara and Chad Blaise – who are homeowners in Takoma Old Town and whose children attend nearby public schools. Tara Blaise said, "Our approach is to keep it small and local."

Blaise said she and her husband have been looking at possible locations in the Takoma Junction and Old Town business districts. The Blaisses have lived in this area for nine years. Chad has been a programmer for Microsoft for 16 years; Tara has worked as a yoga instructor as well as in real estate and in catering. Tara volunteered that she and her husband are not recreational users.

But no business owners are likely to sign a lease until they know that they have a state license to operate a dispensary, and those decisions have not been made yet. The Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission has received 811 applications for dispensary licenses. (Appli-

cations closed Nov. 6.) But the law states that Maryland may issue at most 94 dispensary licenses – two in each of the state's 47 Senate districts. That means the weeding out process must be selective. However, some would-be sellers have applied in many Senate districts to improve their chances. The commission also received 146 applications for growers and 124 applications for processors. The commission will award a maximum of 15 licenses for marijuana growers; the number of processors is not limited.

On Nov. 24, the commission released data indicating how many dispensary applications had been received per Senate district. Takoma Park is at the southern end of Senate District 20, for which 30 dispensary applications were received. This district also includes a considerable chunk of Silver Spring and extends past Colesville in the north, so it's possible that if District 20 receives two licenses, one or both of the licensees may set up shop elsewhere in the district.

Seth Grimes, who served as Councilmember for Ward I for the past four years, took an informal email poll of his constituents on a possible cannabis dispensary. He said five were against having a dispensary nearby, and 23 were in favor or indifferent.

The medical cannabis law allows certified doctors to recommend cannabis for patients with debilitating, chronic and severe illnesses. The law requires that the recipient have an ongoing doctor-patient relationship with the doctor — a stricter requirement than some medical marijuana states. Interestingly, the law does not permit production or sales of edible cannabis products, just those that are inhaled.

While the financial stakes in the cannabis business may seem small right now, that may change. The current trend across the country seems to be legalizing medical marijuana and then legalizing recreational use as well. Former Councilmember Grimes offered this prediction: "I predict Maryland will legalize recreational use by 2019." That could be big business — and those who get into Maryland early through medical marijuana may reap rewards later on.

For more information about the law, visit the website of the Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission at mmcc.maryland.gov.

Friends book clubs embark on new reading adventures

By Tim Rahn and Phil Schewe

The Friends Fortnightly Book Group will discuss *The Story of My Teeth* by Valeria Luiselli on Wednesday, Jan. 20 at 7:30 in the Hydrangea Room of the Community Center.

A work a juice company originally commissioned to be read aloud to its workers, Luiselli crafted *The Story of My Teeth* in several installments. Feedback from the workers after each installment informs the story, which tells us of the experiences of the self-proclaimed greatest auctioneer in the world, Gustavo Sánchez Sánchez, also known as Highway.

Born with four teeth, Highway collects the teeth of the famous: Borges, Plato, Petrarch and others. He eventually acquires Marilyn Monroe's teeth and has them implanted in his mouth, leading him to tell us, "For months after the operation, I couldn't keep the grin off my face."

Although *The Story of My Teeth* may have the makings of a farce, Luiselli and her translator, Christina MacSweeney, use the novel to explore a range of

philosophical ideas.

The Friends of the Library Big Book Club (BBC) holds regular sessions twice a year in the spring and fall. The books are chosen by vote and are big in size and in excellence. Examples include Tolstoy's *War and Peace*, Dickens' *Bleak House* and Melville's *Moby Dick*. The series typically starts by inviting an expert (usually a professor) to speak about the chosen book at an opening reception with refreshments. After that participants meet three or four times at the Takoma Park Community Center to continue discussions.

The next book to be covered will be Theodore Dreiser's *An American Tragedy*. The book caused a sensation when it appeared in 1925. It tells the story of a man who is gradually consumed by his flaws. Many scholars consider *An American Tragedy* the defining work of American naturalism. In 2005 it appeared on Time Magazine's top 100 novels written in English since 1923.

Discussions of *An American Tragedy* will begin in April, and we invite all book lovers to attend. The BBC is always look-

ing for new members, who want to participate in lively conversations about literature, politics, philosophy and religion as

these topics arise in some of the greatest books ever written. Check at the Library for discussion dates.

EARTHQUAKE

■ From page 8

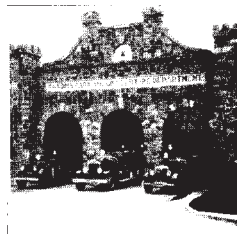
14 hours for the first leg of our flight to Dulles.

The environmental impact of the earthquake has been severe, but it gives Nepal a chance to recreate structures and systems that are environmentally sound. The epicenter of the quake was under the most landslide prone part of the country. Many who survived the quake died in avalanches and mudslides. Entire villages were wiped out. Terraced farming was damaged if not entirely altered in some parts of the country. Fortunately, no dams broke, but some hydropower stations were destroyed.

Economic losses were significant and continue to be. Nepal is one of the poorest countries in the world. Tourism is important to its economy. Roads to some of the

most popular peaks for climbing are no longer drivable, culturally important sites have vanished, and small businesses, including the artisans I rely on, turned their creativity to daily survival rather than the production of beautiful objects. The current informal blockade by India and China of medicine and other resources traveling to Nepal is yet another blow to a country struggling to survive. All will return to normal, but it will take much time and the good will and support of economically more fortunate countries, including and perhaps especially its neighbors.

The memory of the quake that we will carry forever is the kindness of people who, despite their personal tragedies and terrors, showed us nothing but generosity and affection. Our talk and accompanying photographs will focus on the highlights of the unique trip we hope to share with you.



THE FIREHOUSE REPORT

By Jim Jarboe

As of Nov. 30, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the personnel of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service assigned to the station have responded to 567 fire-related incidents in 2015. The department addressed or assisted with 3,031 rescue or ambulance-related incidents for a total of 3,598.

Totals for 2014 were 626 and 2,608 representing an increase of 364 incidents.

During November 2015, Takoma Park volunteers put in a total 1,352 hours of standby time at the station, compared to 1,239 in November 2014. Grand totals as of November 2015 were

4 Fire Safety Tips for 2016

1. Make sure you have working smoke alarms on all levels of your home. Test them monthly.
2. Have a family fire escape plan and review it on a regular basis.
3. Never leave a lit candle unattended.
4. When you are finished with your Christmas tree, make sure you get it out of your house as soon as possible.

A special note from your Takoma Park VFD: We wish you and your families a happy and safe New Year.

14,582: 5 hours, compared to 15,413 hours in 2014, a decrease of 830.5 hours.

Maryland fire deaths

The Maryland State Fire Marshal Office reported as of Dec. 14, 59 people have died in fires, compared to 59 in December 2014.

Emergency Preparedness team makes "house calls"

By the Takoma Park Emergency Preparedness Committee

Questions: How do you handle emergency if you live in a large apartment or condominium complex? Do you remember what to do in case of fire, a massive storm or power outage? What about your pets?

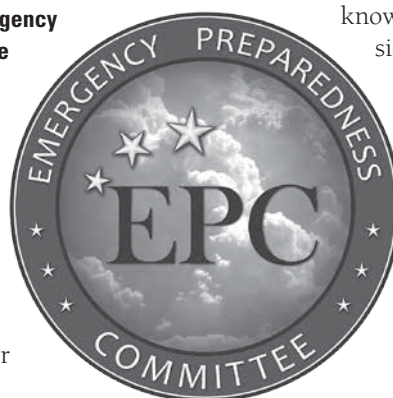
Answers: Help in the form of "house calls" is part of the support offered to Takoma Park residents living in these complexes. In August and September of last year, a team of specialists made house calls to 16 large buildings on Maple, New Hampshire, Houston, Flower, Carroll and Lee Avenues. The team set up tables in entry areas, at some exits, inside and outside, and even near dumpsters or recycling areas to talk with residents about safety in case of emergencies and to distribute information packets. The team involved experts from several City departments: Ron Hardy, Emergency Preparedness Manager; Jean Kerr and Moses Wilds from Housing; Gina Mathias and Alexandra Young from Public Works; and Jessie Carpenter, our City Clerk.

The team presented information on fire safety, crime prevention, home safety and supplies to have in the apartment, using a communication plan checklist, dealing with pets in case of emergency, having back-up contacts, and making plans for people with disabilities or the elderly as well as preparedness related to weather and larger natural disasters. The team distributed information on tenants' rights, a land-lord tenant handbook, how the City deals with power outages and what to do in case a resident cannot get out of the high rise: Call 911 and hang a (white) sheet outside the window, so rescuers

know there's a person stuck inside.

The team talked with building managers in advance to schedule the dates/times and to identify special issues in each building, such as pointing out a back staircase or which exit doors lead to the outside.

Additional house calls can be set up for neighborhoods by having your neighborhood association or tenants' association contact Ron Hardy, Emergency Preparedness Manager, at 301-891-7126 or ronh@takomaparkmd.gov.



Problem in your neighborhood?

Who do you contact before it becomes an emergency?

- Utilities emergency: PEPCO 202-872-3432
- Street lights: 202-833-7500 Pepco (www.pepco.com)
- Gas service: 703-750-1400
- Water, sewer, or fire hydrant problems/WSSC: 301-206-4002
- Trees (dying or hazardous), sidewalk problems, storm drain overflow or mess, City parks problems: Takoma Park Public Works(TPPW), 301-891-7633
- Trash or debris mess: Code Enforcement, 301-891-7255

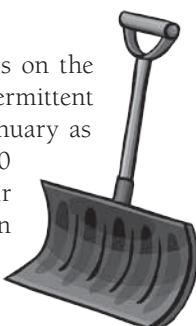


Providing dinners at Thanksgiving

The Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and Auxiliary, in partnership with the Takoma Park Lions Club and Cessil Saxon American Legion Auxiliary, provided funds to purchase 25 dinners. Dinners consisted of all the trimmings, including the turkey and pie. This year marked 21 years of providing dinners because we care about the ones in need. A list of cooking safety tips was included with each dinner. Pictured here are (left to right) Takoma Park VFD members Dave Hooker, Adam Bearne and Jim Jarboe along with Michael Bigler, District Governor (22C), Lions Club.

More Snow Angels Needed

The Snow Angels Program is in progress. There are 66 residents on the snow removal list, and 45 volunteers have signed up to provide intermittent help. The program is preparing to help other residents later in January as we continue to recruit volunteers. Our goal is to register another 20 volunteers to serve a total of 80+ homes this year. Does it warm your heart to help others? Do you enjoy snow? We'd love to have you join our team of Snow Angels. Families and individuals are welcome to volunteer. Please contact lifelong@takomaparkmd.gov and register now for the winter season.



Passport processing program grows

In the City's 2014 resident survey, the passport acceptance program ranked in the top ten of more than 60 City services for resident satisfaction. And judging from the program's growth, residents definitely rely on it.

When the City started the program in 2009, 898 passports were processed. Since then, almost triple that amount has been processed. In 2014 more than 2,500 passports were processed. Last year, on average, 284 passports were processed per month. Sofia Visurraga is the City's passport agent, and the State Depart-

ment's inspection office noted that Ms. Visurraga "displayed top-notch passport acceptance expertise and phenomenal customer service skills."

Passport services are available on first come, first served basis Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Takoma Park Community Center on the second floor. Takoma Park staff encourage calling the City's main phone number at 301-891-7100 and checking if the office is open before departing for the Community Center for passport services.

In Memory: Former Takoma Park Mayor, Stephen Joseph Del Giudice

The City of Takoma Park was saddened to learn of the death of former Mayor Stephen Joseph Del Giudice. Mr. Del Giudice was Mayor of the City of Takoma Park from November 1985 to November 1990 when he resigned to be sworn in as a Prince George's County Councilmember, where he served for eight years.

From his obituary:

Stephen Joseph Del Giudice, former local official, lost his year-long battle to leukemia. Mr. Del Giudice originally from Providence, RI, current

resident of Washington, DC, passed in his home surrounded by his family in the early morning hours of Dec. 17, 2015. Mr. Del Giudice is survived by his wife Sheila Driscoll, his children Cara Lingle and Nicholas Del Giudice, his son-in-law Bryan Lingle, his grandchildren Colton and Grayson Lingle and his brothers, Peter, Dante, Michael and Joseph Del Giudice.

A celebration of life ceremony will take place on Sunday, Jan. 10 at Maggiano's in Chevy Chase located at 5333 Wisconsin Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20015 from 12 to 3 p.m.

Takoma Park identified as 8th most liberal city

Where do most liberals live in America? Well, a good number of them reside in Takoma Park. According to a recent analysis by Crowdpac, an independent, nonpartisan, for-profit aggregator of political data, the City of Takoma Park is the eighth most liberal city in the U.S.

Crowdpac analyzed all political donations to candidates on the federal and state level since 2002 and calculated a political

ideology score for every town in America with a population greater than 6,000. The rankings of the most liberal and conservative cities are based on the "political donations of the people who live there."

To learn more, check out Crowdpac's interactive map at www.crowdpac.com/blog/the-most-liberal-and-conservative-cities-in-america.

NEW MAYOR

■ From page 1

cil," she said, "so that we can really bring people together and start thinking about ways to engage the public more."

One strategy already put in place to increase engagement is holding City Council meetings Wednesday evenings instead of on Mondays. While walking door-to-door during her campaign, Stewart learned that attending meetings on Monday is hard for a lot of people. The council's first meeting of the year will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 13 at 7:30 p.m. (See page 2)

In addition, Stewart wants to raise awareness about the public comment period during City Council meetings. "People don't know that you can come to the City Council meeting during public comment to raise an issue, and it doesn't have to be on the agenda or be a voting item," she said. "A lot of people thought you could only speak to an issue if it was on the agenda or a voting item, which limits people being able to come and voice their opinions."

And Stewart wants to hear those opinions. During her campaign, she stressed the need for leaders who will listen, hear

and act. She says this approach to leadership comes from her training as a researcher. According to her, "if you take the time to listen and you really hear what peoples' concerns and goals are, then you can act on them and get much closer to what you're trying to achieve."

There is a lot Stewart hopes to achieve, and she is excited about working with the



Mayor Stewart presents a resolution for retiring Mayor Williams. Photo by Greg Land, Greg Land Photography.

residents towards those goals. "Takoma Park is a wonderful community where people come together when issues need to be resolved," she said. "As we think about starting this next chapter in our City's history, we need to make sure we're protecting what makes Takoma Park so special as well as taking advantage of opportunities to make our community an even better place for all residents."

RECREATION

■ From page 7

Xpression Thursdays Ages 13 – 17

Allow your imagination and creative juices to come alive on Thursdays in the Teen Lounge. Join Mr. Russell as you express yourself through art. Create pieces that you can take home. We are always looking for more ideas of ways to create and express ourselves.

TP Community Center Teen Lounge
Tuesdays, Jan 7 – Feb 25, 4 p.m.

TRIPS

Teen Snow-Tubing Trip Ages 13 – 17

School's out. So grab your hat, scarf and gloves and join us for an evening in the snow as we head to Liberty Mountain in Pennsylvania to go snow tubing. Race down one of ten tubing lanes solo, or link up with a friend. During a break from snow tubing, hang inside the lodge and have a hot cup of cocoa. It's your day, so have fun the way you like. No experience necessary. Bus leaves TPCC.

TP Community Center Teen Lounge
Monday, Jan. 25, noon – 6 p.m.
TP resident: \$20
Non-resident: \$30.

ADULTS

SPORTS/FITNESS/HEALTH

Go-Go Fitness Ages 16 and older

Go-Go Fitness is a comprehensive 60-minute, high-cardio dance fitness workout that incorporates various dance styles, toning moves as well as the classic call-and-response of a live Go-Go music workout set. TP Recreation Center Gymnasium

Saturdays, Jan. 9, 23, 30, noon – 1 p.m.
\$5 drop-in fee

Jazzercise Ages 16 and older

Jazzercise is the art of Jazz combined with the science of exercise physiology. Each 60-minute class includes easy to follow fun aerobic-dance routines, weights for muscle strength and stretching exercises all to the beat of great music. The music ranges from oldies to jazz to the newest pop tunes.

TP Recreation Center gymnasium
Ongoing, Mondays and Wednesdays, 7 – 8 p.m.
Ongoing, Saturdays, 8 – 9 a.m.
\$45 Per Month EFT (Easy Fitness Ticket)
\$120/ 8 week pass
Drop in \$15

Ladies' Boot Camp I



Ages 16 and older

A total body program that includes a circuit of drills such as jumping jacks, running, push-ups, squats, crunches and weight training. A challenging workout within a quick hour.

TP Recreation Center Gymnasium
Tuesdays and Thursdays, Jan. 12 – March 3,
6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
\$85/8 week
Drop-in \$10

Pilates

Ages 16 and older

This fun and invigorating workout teaches controlled movements utilizing the body's "core" abdomen, back, and hips. Pilates improves core control, coordination, standing alignment and balance with mat exercises. Pilates is the perfect mind and body exercise for anyone who wants to tone, streamline and realign their body.

TP Recreation Center Front Meeting Room
Wednesdays, Jan. 6 – Feb. 10, 6 – 7 p.m.
\$60/6 weeks

FOREVER YOUNG: 55 PLUS

DROP IN

Bingo

Ages 55 and older

Try your luck. Win a prize.

TP Community Center Senior Room
Thursday, Jan. 28, noon – 2 p.m.
Free

Blood Pressure Screening Ages 55 and older

Adventist Healthcare will be doing a free monthly blood pressure screening.

TP Community Center Senior Room
Thursday, Jan. 28, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Free

SPORTS/FITNESS/HEALTH

Line Dancing

Ages 55 and older

Line Dancing is great physical and mental exercise and an enjoyable social activity that leads to meeting new people and making new friends. Strengthening of bones and muscles, weight loss, increased stamina and flexibility and stress reduction are just some of the benefits of dancing. Learn how exercise can be fun with music. No experience necessary.

TP Community Center Dance Studio
Thursdays, Jan. 6 – March 30, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. and 11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.
Free

Cardio Groove Ages 55 and older



High-energy and fast-paced, low-impact Aerobics that get the heart pumping and feet moving quickly. Followed by a cool down and stretch.

TP Community Center Dance Studio
Thursdays, Jan. 7 – March 10, 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.
Free

Senior Free Fitness Pass Ages 55 and older

This is a pass that is offered at the Takoma Park Recreation Center for seniors 55 and over who would like to use the fitness center. Registration is open. You can register today at the Recreation Center on New Hampshire Avenue or the Community Center on Maple Avenue.

TP Recreation Center fitness room
Tuesdays and Thursdays, noon – 9 p.m.
Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 2:30 – 9 p.m.
Saturdays, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Free

JANUARY '16

Do you have an item for the city calendar?

Do you have an item for the city calendar? Let us know if you have a nonprofit event that would be of interest to City of Takoma Park residents, and we'll consider it for inclusion in the calendar. Deadline for the February issue is Jan. 15, and the newsletter will be distributed beginning Jan. 29.

To submit calendar items, email tpnewseditor@takomaparkmd.gov.

"TP Community Center" is the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park.

All addresses are in Takoma Park or Takoma, D.C., unless otherwise noted.

PUBLIC MEETINGS OF NOTE

City Council

City Council Meeting, Wednesday, Jan. 13, 7:30 p.m.

TPCC Auditorium

Detailed agendas are always available for review online at www.takomaparkmd.gov/citycouncil/agendas.

Takoma Park Emergency Food Pantry

First Saturdays, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Grace United Methodist Church, 7001 New Hampshire Ave.

Bi-weekly and monthly food supplements for needy families

240-450-2092 or educare_ss@yahoo.com

www.educaresupportservices.org

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Kid's Night Out

First and third Fridays, 7:15 – 8:30 p.m.

Takoma Park Recreation Center

Fun and games for kids

Teen Night

Second and fourth Fridays, 7:15 – 8:30 p.m.

Takoma Park Recreation Center

Games and activities just for teens

Takoma Park Farmers Market

Sundays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Year-round

Laurel and Carroll avenues in Old Town

Locally grown produce, baked goods, meats, cheeses

Food Truck Fridays

Fridays, 5 – 8 p.m.

Takoma Junction, next to TPSS Co-op, 201 Ethan Allen Ave.

Trohv, 232 Carroll St., NW

Various food vendors

Social and Wellness Event for Takoma Park Elders

Tuesday, January 26, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

There will be a social event for residents 55+ and caregivers. There will be food and music, and

residents are encouraged to bring their favorite music CD.

There will be a sign when you enter the building listing the room location. This event is brought to you through a collaboration between the Village of Takoma Park and the City's Lifelong Takoma Program.

TP Community Center

Parents of Special Needs Adults (POSNA)

Thursday, January 28, 6:30 p.m.

A group of concerned parents and others in Takoma Park who love an adult(s) with special needs, such as autism, Down's Syndrome and other developmental challenges as well as psychiatric disorders, meets monthly to provide support for one another. For more information, contact Mary Jane Muchui at muchui@aol.com.

Village of Takoma Park Volunteer Training

Village Rides

Thursday, Jan. 21, 7 – 9 p.m.

Volunteer to give the gift of a lift to residents needing transportation.

Friendly Visitor Program

Thursday, Jan. 28, 1 – 3 p.m.

Volunteer to call or visit a homebound resident one hour per week.

Both trainings sessions will be held at the TP Community Center.

Call 301-646-2109 to register and for more information.

ARTS AND LITERATURE

People's Open Mic

Sundays, 9 p.m.

Republic restaurant, 6939 Laurel Ave.

www.republictakoma.com

Drum for Joy! with Jaqui MacMillan

Mondays, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

Electric Maid, 268 Carroll St.

Learn hand drumming

Blues Mondays

Mondays, 7:30 – 10:30 p.m.

Republic restaurant, 6939 Laurel Ave.

www.republictakoma.com

Open Mic Night

Tuesdays, 9 – 11 p.m.

Busboys and Poets, 235 Carroll St. NW

Jazz Jam

Tuesdays, 7 – 10 p.m.

Takoma Station, 6914 14th St. NW

Open mic for jazz musicians

Wednesday Night Drum Jams

Wednesdays, 7 – 9:30 p.m.

The Electric Maid, 268 Carroll St. NW

Hosted by Katy Gaughan and friends

Personal Panoramas Exhibit Opening Reception

Thursday, Jan. 7, 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Art by Allan Akman, Julia Bloom, Kristine DeNinno, Alex Keto, Jacqueline Lee and Marcie Wolf-Hubbard.

Free

TP Community Center Atrium

www.TakomaParkMd.gov/arts

Friends in Deed: American Quakers and Refugees from Nazi Europe, 1938-1941

Thursday, Jan. 7, 7:30 p.m.

A lecture on refugees from Nazi Europe

Suggested \$10 donation.

Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium

www.takomaparkmd.gov/arts

Bumper Jacksons

Friday, Jan. 8

Jazz and pre-war country music.

\$18 – \$20

Carroll Cafe, Seekers Church, 276 Carroll St. NW

Vintage Classroom Movies

Thursday, Jan. 14, 7:30 p.m.

A screening of short, educational films from the '40s, '50s, and '60s.

Free

TP Community Center Auditorium

www.takomaparkmd.gov/arts

Third Thursday Poetry

Thursday, Jan. 21, 7:30 p.m.

Featuring poets Doritt Carroll, Ellen Cole and Susan Okie.

Free

TP Center Auditorium

Writing a Village

Monday, Jan. 25, 7 p.m.

This monthly poetry workshop is for those who love words, led by Anne Becker, poet laureate emerita of Takoma Park.

Free

TP Community Center Rose Room

Photo Salon

Monday, Jan. 25, 7 p.m.

A monthly salon for photographers to show and critique work. Professional, fine art, and amateur photographers are welcome.

Free

TP Community Center Hydrangea Room

PB and Jam Session

Saturday, Jan. 30, 4 – 6 p.m.

The Takoma Ensemble presents a kindermusik concert for ages 2 – 7.

Suggested \$10 donation

Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium

www.takomaparkmd.gov/arts

UPCOMING EVENTS

he Early Bird Captures the Worm! Summer Camp Expo

Saturday, Jan. 30, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Come out and discover all of the camps that the Recreation Department will be offering this year for tots, youth and teens. Meet the instructors and learn what your child(ren) will be participating in. You will receive a 20 percent discount if you register in person during the expo. All other forms of registration will begin Monday, Feb. 1 at 8:30 a.m. Registrants throughout the Early Bird Special registration period (Feb. 1-29) will receive a 10 percent discount.

TP Community Center at 7500 Maple Ave.

Takoma Park's 6th Annual Mid-Winter Play Day

Sunday, Feb. 14, 1-4 p.m.

Co-sponsored by Let's Play America and Takoma Park Recreation Department

Special Attractions: Bach2Rock will be back with several fun bands, Leveling the Playing Field will be collecting equipment, and activities for people of all ages.

FREE

TP Community Center 7500 Maple Ave.

Community Conversations

Throughout the New Year, Mayor Kate Stewart and the City Council plan to host a series of Community Conversations about various topics of importance to the community. These "conversations" will be designed to promote thoughtful, engaged dialogue among Councilmembers, members of the community, staff and other subject matter experts. While the details and a full schedule of meetings and topics are still to-be-determined, the Council has decided on the morning of Saturday, Feb. 6 for the first Community Conversation. The topic of this inaugural meeting will be housing affordability in Takoma Park.

First Community Conversation

Topic: Housing Affordability

Feb. 6

TP Community Center



2016 SAFE GROW LAWN CARE EVENT

"Switching to Organic Lawn Care Methods"

Takoma Park Residents are invited to the 2016 Annual Safe Grow Event!

Come & join local lawn care expert, **Zack Kline from A.I.R. Landscaping** & get tips on transitioning from traditional lawn care to organic methods.

Date: Thursday, January 28, 2016

Time: 7 pm to 9 pm

Location: Auditorium Hall

7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, 20912

All Homeowners attending the event will receive a free soil test & An opportunity to receive a free lawn care consultation from A.I.R. LANDSCAPING

Learn about the event and sign up for free lawn care consultation at <http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/safegrow>